

AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims.

1.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A press belt in a pressing apparatus comprising the press belt rotated endlessly and pressing means provided inside and/or outside a periphery of the press belt, comprising:

many drain grooves extending along a belt travel direction; and

many lands positioned between the adjacent grooves and extending along the belt travel direction,

wherein said land has an upper surface which is entirely curved upwardly as a transverse sectional configuration along a belt width direction,

wherein said lands are spaced apart from each other by the groove therebetween, and

wherein said transverse sectional configuration of the land is an upward parabolic configuration.

7.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A shoe press roll comprising an external cylinder comprising an endless press belt, and a pressure shoe positioned inside a periphery of said external cylinder as pressing means,

wherein said external cylinder is the press belt according to claim 6.

11. (New) A press belt in a pressing apparatus comprising the press belt rotated endlessly and pressing means provided inside and/or outside a periphery of the press belt, said press belt comprising:

many drain grooves extending along a belt travel direction; and

many lands positioned between the adjacent grooves and extending along the belt travel direction,

wherein said land has an upper surface which is curved upwardly as a transverse sectional configuration along a belt width direction,

wherein said lands are spaced apart from each other by the groove therebetween,

wherein said upper surface of the land comprises a linear part on its top as a transverse sectional configuration along the belt width direction, and

wherein a width of said linear part is defined as “s” and a width of the land is “W”, and a relation between them is such that $s/W < 0.5$.

12. (New) The press belt according to claim 11, wherein said transverse sectional configuration of the land is an upward parabolic configuration.

13. (New) The press belt according to claim 11, wherein side walls on both sides of said land are tapered so that their width is reduced toward the upper side.

14. (New) The press belt according to claim 11, wherein $s/W \leq 0.3$.

15. (New) The press belt according to claim 11, wherein $s/W \leq 0.1$.

16. (New) A shoe press roll comprising an external cylinder comprising an endless press belt, and a pressure shoe positioned inside a periphery of said external cylinder as pressing means,

wherein said external cylinder is the press belt according to claim 11.